(c) if so, whether any patients with this strain have been detected in India; and

(d) the steps being taken for early detection of HIV patients and their treatment?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes sir. A study led by scientists at University of Utrecht in Netherlands involved 1633 HIV positive patients from 17 Europeans countries, diagnosed between 1996 and 2003. It was found that 9.6% of newly diagnosed HIV patients in Europe were infected with HIV strain that was resistant to at least one class of anti-retroviral and 1.7% were resistant to two or more of the antiretroviral drugs.

(c) In the studies that have been carried in NARI, Pune it was seen that 4 out of 17 patients tested had mutations related to drug resistance.

(d) For the early detection of HIV infected persons, Govt. has established 540 voluntary Counseling and Testing Centers through State AIDS Control Societies in Medical colleges and district hospitals in the country. The Govt. of India at present provides financial support to State AIDS Control Societies for treatment of HIV/AIDS related opportunistic infections.

Inclusion of Modern Pharmacology in Homoeopathic Medical Education

2763. SHRI MANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether non-inclusion of Allopathic Pharmacology in Five and Half years integrated course of Homoeopathic Medical Education is the reason for not permitting BHMS and similar Degree holder doctors to prescribe Allopathic drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) why Allopathic Pharmacology should not be made compulsory in BHMS and similar courses to enable them to prescribe Allopathic drugs also, to serve rural population; when majority of M.B.B.S. Doctors are not willing to serve them; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) According to the provisions made in the Indian Medical council Act, 1956, The Indian Medicine 'Central Council Act, 1970 and the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973, a person may practice in the system he holds recognized medical qualifications and/or registered with the concerned Council. Some State Governments have permitted Ayurveda and Unani Physicians to practice modern medicine to the extent of their teaching and training. Some state Governments have also posted ISM&H physicians in rural areas where the allopathic doctors are not willing to serve.

Brain Fever Deaths

2764. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many children have died of brain fever in the Vidharbha region of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for the spread of he disease and failure of the medical authorities to control the same and prevent deaths; and

(d) the steps taken to control brain fever in and around Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) As per reports received from the State Health Authorities (upto 6th August, 2003), there have been 90 deaths due to viral encephalitis in Vidharbha region of Maharashtra.

(c) and (d) Vector borne diseases show seasonal and cyclic pattern. Cognenial conditions for breeding of vectors increase the risk of outbreaks including brain fever. While control of outbreaks is the responsibility of the respective state Governments, Government of India has provided technical support by sending expert team the affected areas. Support has also been provided for laboratory confirmation for diagnosis of the outbreaks. In addition to the insecticides and larvicides already provided under the National Anti Malaria Programme (NAMP), arrangements have been made for additional supply of Malathion (Technical) for fogging and larvicides for use in affected areas of Maharashtra.